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(71) Applicant

**Richard Lawrence Quick,
6 Oriel Road, Rock Ferry, Birkenhead, Merseyside.**

(72) Inventor

Richard Lawrence Quick

(74) Agent and/or Address for Service

**Potts Kerr & Co,
15 Hamilton Square, Birkenhead, Merseyside L41 6BR**

(51) INT CL⁴

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EP A1 0124663

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(58) Field of search

A2B

(54) Beverage tablets

(57) The invention provides a beverage-forming product, which product when hot liquid is added thereto will provide a beverage of selected composition, said product comprising a soluble, solid, beverage-forming material, and said product being formed into a selected compressed, non-crumbly, shape. The beverage-forming material is preferably coffee, cocoa, chocolate or tea, suitably in the form of powder, particles or granules, and the beverage-forming product is suitably in the form of a tablet of any selected shape. The products are suitable for use in vending machines and fast food outlets.

GB 2 196 228 A

SPECIFICATION

Dispensing of beverages

5 The present invention concerns improvements in or relating to the dispensing of beverages.

There are various types of vending machines on the market at the present time for the dispensing of beverages. Such machines
10 tend to utilise various ingredients in powder form. The user selects a particular combination of ingredients to provide the desired beverage. However, in certain instances the required quantities of ingredients are not necessarily mixed together. Moreover, vending machines can become blocked with regard to
15 one or more ingredients so that the selected beverage is not dispensed. Also, the area around the base of a vending machine can become extremely sticky and untidy, due to ingredients not being directed into the container in which the beverage is prepared.

There are also on the market various types of packets or sachets containing a selected
25 amount of a particular ingredient utilised in the formation of a beverage. The user has to open each packet or sachet and deposit the contents thereof into a container. It is possible that certain of the contents of the packets or sachets can spill onto a surface adjacent the container.

In all cases, the beverage is produced by adding hot water and/or hot milk or the like to the beverage-forming product.

35 It is an object of the present invention to provide a product which at least minimises the disadvantages referred to above and which can be used in vending machines, fast food outlets and the like. The product of the invention will enable a user to select a desired
40 beverage.

According to the present invention there is provided a beverage-forming product, which product when hot liquid is added thereto, will
45 provide a beverage of selected composition, said product comprising a soluble, solid, beverage-forming material, and said product being formed into a selected compressed, non-crumbly shape.

50 The beverage-forming material may be any well-known type of material from which beverages are formed, for example, coffee, cocoa, chocolate, tea etc.

The beverage-forming material will suitably
55 be in the form of powder, particles or granules which are suitably formed into the selected compressed, non-crumbly shape by pressing.

The beverage-forming product is suitably in
60 the form of a tablet of any selected shape, such as disc-shaped, or may be in the form of a cube. When in tablet form the product is solid and hard and easily manageable and no spillage of the product can take place.

65 The beverage-forming product may include

other ingredients, for example sugar and/or mild in solid form. If the product contains sugar, then same can act as a binder therefor. Alternatively, one or more binding agents may
70 be incorporated in said product.

The beverage-forming product can also include solubilising agents and the like to assist in effecting solubilisation of the product in a reasonable time, when hot liquid is added
75 thereto.

It will thus be seen that the beverage-forming material, and other ingredients if present, can be utilised in selected quantities and strengths so as to enable a user to select a
80 beverage of desired composition.

If desired, the beverage-forming product could be packaged in suitable foil material with the composition of the product in question being marked on such material.

85 The present invention will be further described with reference to coffee as the beverage-forming material; however, it is to be understood that any other suitable beverage-forming material could be utilised.

90 It is envisaged that a plurality of different types of compressed, non-crumbly products containing coffee would be prepared for use in vending machines and/or fast food outlets. For example, tablets could be prepared

95 suitably of the following composition:

Black coffee

Black coffee with one sugar

Black coffee with two sugars

White coffee

100 White coffee with one sugar

White coffee with two sugars

In addition, the strength of the coffee in each tablet can be varied depending upon the user's preferred strength of coffee.

105 It will thus be seen that any desired mixture of ingredients may be utilised in the product of the present invention, the amounts and strengths of such ingredients being selected as desired.

110 The user can select a particular beverage-forming product which, when hot water or milk is added thereto, will produce the desired beverage.

It is to be understood that other specific
115 types of mixture and concentration of ingredients can be utilised than those given above.

It will thus be seen that the invention enables a plurality of compressed, non-crumbly products of different concentration and/or
120 content to be prepared which are easily handleable, are non-sticky, and are particularly suitable for use in beverage dispensing apparatus and in fast food outlets.

When utilised in a beverage dispensing
125 apparatus, a user can select the desired beverage, the desired concentration thereof, e.g. strong or weak, and whether any other ingredients, e.g. milk and/or sugar, and in what amounts, are desired. The thus selected beverage-forming product will then be dispensed
130

into a suitable container and hot liquid added thereto. The product will dissolve therein and the desired beverage will be obtained.

- 5 In order to prepare a beverage-forming product in tablet form, one or more binders and/or solubilising agents may additionally be utilised.

CLAIMS

- 10 1. A beverage-forming product, which product when hot liquid is added thereto will provide a beverage of selected composition, said product comprising a soluble, solid, beverage-forming material, and said product being
- 15 formed into a selected compressed, non-crumbly, shape.
2. A beverage-forming product as claimed in claim 1, in which the beverage-forming material is selected from coffee, cocoa, chocolate
- 20 or tea.
3. A beverage-forming product as claimed in claim 1 or 2, in which the beverage-forming material is in the form of powder, particles or granules.
- 25 4. A beverage-forming product as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3, in which the beverage-forming product is in the form of a tablet of any selected shape.
5. A beverage-forming product as claimed
- 30 in claim 1, 2 or 3, in which the beverage-forming product is in the form of a cube.
6. A beverage-forming product as claimed in any preceding claim, in which the beverage-forming product additionally includes sugar and/or milk in solid form.
- 35 7. A beverage-forming product as claimed in any preceding claim, in which the beverage-forming product additionally includes one or more binders and/or solubilising agents.
- 40 8. A beverage-forming product as claimed in any preceding claim in which the beverage-forming material is utilised in selected quantities and/or strengths.
9. A beverage-forming product as claimed
- 45 in any preceding claim, in which the product is encased in foil, the composition of the product being marked thereon.
10. A beverage-forming product as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9, substantially as
- 50 hereinbefore described.
11. A plurality of different types of compressed, non-crumbly, products as claimed in any preceding claim, for use in vending machines and/or fast food outlets.
- 55 12. A beverage dispensing apparatus incorporating a plurality of different types of beverage-forming products as claimed in claim 11.

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TITLE: Beverage-forming materials
compressed into solid shape
forming drinks with hot liquids
for use in vending machines and
fast food outlets

INVENTOR: QUICK R L

PATENT-ASSIGNEE: QUICK R L[QUICI]

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ABSTRACTED-PUB-NO: GB 2196228 A**BASIC-ABSTRACT:**

Beverage-forming prod. comprises a soluble, solid, beverage-forming material (I) which has been compressed into a selected, non-crumbly shape. The prod. forms a beverage on addn. of a hot liq.

Pref. have coffee, cocoa, chocolate or tea as (I), which may be in powder, particle or granule form. The compressed prod. is pref. a tablet of desired shape (cube, etc.). Opt. the prod. may also contain sugar and/or milk in solid form, and one or more binders and/or solubilising agents.

USE/ADVANTAGE - The prods. are easily handled and non-sticky, and are esp. useful in beverage dispensing machines and fast food outlets.

TITLE-TERMS: BEVERAGE FORMING MATERIAL COMPRESS
SOLID SHAPE DRINK HOT LIQUID VENDING
MACHINE FAST FOOD OUTLET

DERWENT-CLASS: D13**CPI-CODES:** D03-H01G; D03-H01L;**SECONDARY-ACC-NO:****CPI Secondary Accession Numbers:** 1988-051331